AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please accept amended Claims 1, 3-5, and 36 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by a processor to perform a method for deriving knowledge from parameters and data, the method comprising:

passing the parameters to an externalized inferencing component upon executing a trigger point in the program of instructions;

evaluating, by the externalized inferencing component, the data comprising a set of rules to be interpreted of an externalized inferencing component in the presence of against the parameters to perform an inference external to the program of instructions passed by a trigger point within the program of instructions to perform an inference, wherein the externalized inferencing component is in communication with the program of instructions, wherein the inference is a derivation of the knowledge;

storing the knowledge derived by the inference with the data; and

outputting the knowledge derived by the inference to trigger point of the program of instructions.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data is stored in persistent memory external to the program of instructions.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the externalized inferencing

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component ~~include~~ includes at least one of ~~a trigger point,~~ a short term fact, an inference rule, an inference engine, a static variable mapping, a sensor, an effector, a long term fact, and a conclusion.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the externalized inferencing component ~~include~~ includes at least one of ~~a trigger point component,~~ a short term fact component, an inference rule set component, an inference engine component, a static mapping component, a sensor component, an effector component, a long term fact component, and a conclusion component.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the externalized inferencing component is one of a consumer of data provided by an inferencing component, a supplier of data provided by an inferencing component, and a combination thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of associating the trigger point with the program of instructions.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein trigger points operate either synchronously or asynchronously.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the externalized inferencing component is a master inferencing component that employs at least one other externalized inferencing component.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the externalized inferencing component employs an inferencing engine.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the externalized inferencing component is composed of at least one inferencing subcomponent.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sharing the externalized inferencing component by reference with at least one other externalized inferencing component.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the externalized inferencing component performs method steps to one of create, update and delete another externalized inferencing component.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein an algorithm of the externalized inferencing component for performing the evaluation is shared by a plurality of externalized inferencing components.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an inference component management facility to administer externalized inferencing components, the administration including operations to create, retrieve, update, and delete.

21-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A system for executing a program of instructions in communication with an externalized inference component comprising:

a memory device storing data, the program of instructions and the externalized inference component;

a processor for receiving the data and executing the plurality of instructions and the externalized inference component to perform a method for deriving knowledge from the data comprising:

passing the parameters to an externalized inferencing component upon executing a trigger point in the program of instructions;

evaluating, by the externalized inferencing component, the data comprising a set of rules to be interpreted ~~of an externalized inferencing component in the presence of~~ against the parameters to perform an inference external to the program of instructions ~~passed by a trigger point within the program of instructions to perform an inference,~~ wherein the externalized inferencing component is in communication with the program of instructions, wherein the inference is a derivation of the knowledge;

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storing the knowledge derived by the inference with the data; and

outputting the knowledge derived by the inference to trigger point of the program of instructions.